

November 11, 2014



## **Visual arts instructor wins national teaching award**

Congratulations to Perpich visual arts instructor Pat Benincasa, who was awarded a 2014 Scholastic Art & Writing Award “as an outstanding educator whose dedication, commitment and guidance are represented by student works selected for national honors.”

## **New board members appointed**

Two new board members were appointed last month, whose terms are effective until Jan. 1, 2018. Mikal Nabors, Minneapolis, is administrator to the COO/CFO of the Minneapolis Foundation. Prior to his employment with the Foundation Nabors worked as an assurance specialist and tax associate for PricewaterhouseCooper, LLP in Minnesota, San Jose and San Francisco. Not new to volunteer service, Nabors is a member of the Twin Cities Gay Men’s Chorus and active in Big Brothers. He has an undergraduate degree in finance and a Master’s degree in taxation from Golden Gate University, San Francisco. He replaces Peter Adolphson, whose term expired in January.

Linda Henning, Minneapolis, is a manager in the environmental services division of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities. She has more than 40 years experience in public, non-profit and private sector work and was appointed by former Governor Tim Pawlenty to serve on the Minnesota Environmental Education Advisory Board. She is not a stranger to the Perpich Center, having served as president of the Perpich Foundation for the past four years, following the graduation of her daughter from the arts high school. Henning has a Bachelor’s degree in business administration from the Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota. She replaces Alex Plechash, whose term expired in January.



## **Art history instructor involved curriculum development with advisory board**

Craig Farmer, art history instructor, worked on two curriculum guides for statewide audiences as part of his volunteer work as a member of the Park Square Theater’s teacher advisory board. He worked with Perpich theater education coordinator Virginia McFerran on a guide for “The House on Mango Street” by Sandra Cisneros: “Enhancing Cultural Context Through Visual Literacy,” and also on “The Color Purple” by Alice Walker: “Enhancing Cultural Context Through Visual Images.” To see the guides, go to [parksquaretheatre.org](http://parksquaretheatre.org).



## **Perpich music students perform at Zeitgeist’s New Music Cabaret**

Zeitgeist’s 6th Annual New Music Cabaret, presented over the weekend of Nov. 6-9 at Studio Z in St. Paul’s Lowertown arts district, featured Perpich students in the Young Performer Showcase on both Thursday and Friday evenings. Zeitgeist is a new music chamber quartet that presents new commissioned compositions from, among others, Perpich music instructor and well-known composer Janika Vandervelde.



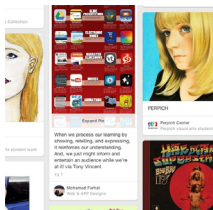
### Minneapolis students visit Perpich for Day of the Dead

Two groups of students—second graders and a middle-grades class—from Andersen United Community School in Minneapolis visited Perpich Oct. 29 to participate in Day of the Dead activities with the Spanish classes and in media arts. All of the Anderson students watched a short play, “La Llorona” in the Black Box presented by Perpich Spanish I students. The Spanish College in the Schools class worked with second-graders on Day of the Dead activities in the cafeteria during second block. Media arts instructor Rebecca Bullen and art history instructor Craig Farmer worked with the middle-school students during blocks two and three.



### Perpich Library survey of student technology use shows increase in smart phones

Perpich Arts Library staff does an annual survey of student technology use. This year 129 students responded to the survey, about 50 percent of the student body. Smart phone use is up, with 84 percent of those in the survey reporting ownership, compared to less than 60 percent last year. About the same percentage own laptops—a little more than 50 percent of them PCs as opposed to Macs. Almost 60 percent report owning digital cameras and 54 percent own video game consoles. Their most popular social networks are Facebook (82 percent), Snapchat (73 percent) YouTube (71 percent) and a tie (63 percent) between Tumblr and Instagram. About two-thirds are still using email.



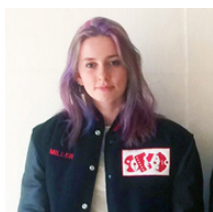
### Have you visited the Perpich Arts Library Pinterest site lately?

Librarian Anne Dennison has been updating the [Perpich Library site](#). Please visit it if you are curious about new materials that the library has added in the past few months. She created a new boards which show the library materials that have been created by Perpich alumni and faculty and staff.

Check here for the [Perpich alumni site](#) or the [Perpich faculty and staff site](#). If you know of any other materials (books, CDs, DVDs, etc.) that the library should purchase that have been created by or involve alumni or faculty or staff, please suggest them to the library staff.

### 2015 Perpich yearbook work underway

The Perpich Arts High School yearbook is like no other and that kind of originality takes work. Media arts instructor Aki Shibata has taken the adviser helm for this year's yearbook and has a crew of 18 students from all arts areas to help put the usually 200-page book together. Students on the staff are: Isabella Steele, Regan Dockery, Samantha Fabisch, Sophie Finnerty and Veronica Folkedahl in theater; Ashley Brewer, Michael Hansen and Sophia Deutsch in media; Ashley Wolfe and Deseray Jones in visual; Ben Cochrane-Cole and Jessika Akpaka in dance; Olivia Munson in artscience; and Alana Keiser and Ariel Johnson in literary. Thanks to Aki and these seniors who have stepped forward to help make the 2015 yearbook awesome!

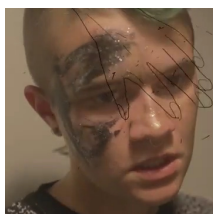


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### Perpich letter jackets causing a stir

No sooner did Perpich social media showcase the new letter jackets that visual arts instructor Pat Benincasa helped to make available to interested students and staff than alumni began posting to Facebook and tweeting that they wanted jackets, too. "Why didn't we have these when I was at Perpich?" was the cry that went up. So Benincasa extended the order deadline to today so that those who wanted to get a jacket could do so. Although the window to order through Benincasa has closed, Perpich will have new information on how to order the jackets directly from the manufacturer at [perpich.mn.gov](http://perpich.mn.gov).

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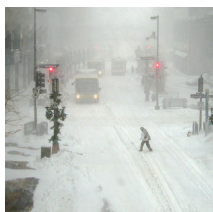


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### Current and alumni students involved in album release party this Saturday

2014 music alumna Mackenzie Monk and her duo, Origami Bones, consisting of her (Shatter the Primate) and producer/DJ Adriatic, are hosting an album release party on Saturday, Nov. 15, 8 p.m., at Minnehaha Free Space, 3747 Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis, to celebrate the duo's first release, "One," featuring alternative electronic music. Origami Bones' music video for the song, "Spine Diving," done by Satya Varghese Mac (senior, media) and Jae Shin Cross (senior, media), will be shown. Among those being featured at the opening are Ian Underhill-Cady (senior, music), who will be hosting and performing, art installation by Faith Rawson (senior, visual) and Jae Shin Cross, and projections by Michael Hansen (senior, media).

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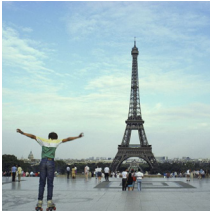


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### When severe winter weather strikes

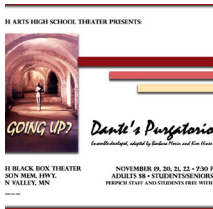
This week's weather is bringing winter in with a sudden breath of icy air. As both a state agency and a public school, Perpich uses several measures to determine when we open and when we close and who is impacted. The primary concern is safety of students on the public roads. The executive director and school director together determine when the school will be closed, open late or close early. Those decisions will be put on the website, on Facebook and on our Twitter feed. When the school is closed before the start of a school day, Perpich has that broadcast via WCCO radio (830 AM) as well as through our own electronic media.

For agency employees who aren't on the high school staff and stay at work regardless of whether the high school is open or not, Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) is responsible for declaring weather emergencies and the closing of state offices. When that happens, the school also will close. Just as the high schools does, MMB sends notices to WCCO radio as well as to local television stations. The MMB emergency website, [BeReady](http://BeReady) also is updated. State employees can sign up with the MMB Twitter account to receive text messages when state government is closed because of weather.



### Nous allons à la France!

Madame Trina Keller, French professeur, has gathered 10 Perpich étudiants who will be traveling with her to France in March 2015. They will go to Tours in the Loire Valley (chateau country) and live with French families and attend a French high school, giving them the opportunity to practice their French and enjoy French culture. During the final four days of the trip, they will travel together to Paris. Nous sommes jaloux, mais se amuser!



### Upcoming performances

November is a happening month. The **theater students** will be performing "Going Up?" at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, Nov. 19-22, in the Black Box. "Going Up?" is a contemporary reflection on Dante Alighieri's epic journey through the seven levels of Purgatory (corresponding with the "seven deadly sins"). Text and choreography for the play have been developed through improvisations based on the original poem, the central section of Dante's "The Divine Comedy," completed in 1321. Barbara Morin, theater instructor and director, says we "will find the play's reflections respectful to Dante's original intent but probably a lot funnier." Tickets are \$8 per adult; \$5 for students 12 and under and for seniors over 62.

On the Monday following the theater run, the **literary arts juniors** will present a reading of their works at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 24, in the Performance Hall. The reading is free and open to all. The lit students' readings are always filled with unexpected twists, passion and humor—sometimes all at once. Don't miss it!

Just before winter break, dance and music will present performances. The **dance troupe** will perform at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Dec. 10-12, in the Black Box. Part of the performance will be a new piece choreographed by the seniors in response to the shooting death of Mike Brown by a police officer in Ferguson, Missouri, a powerful piece the students work shopped at Bryant Lake Bowl in October. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for students 12 and younger and for seniors 62 and older.

The **music concerts** will be at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 18, and at 2 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19. Expect every variation on music from classical to pop to jazz to rock and roll. The music concerts are in the Performance Hall and seats go early. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for students 12 and younger and for seniors 62 and older.



### Field trip to the MIA courtesy of Perpich alums

Robin Cotton's ('02, visual) tour of the Minneapolis Art Institute for the art history students the first week of November was an opportunity to see the unsung but vital work that goes into making a museum of art operable: the handling, packing, shipping and receiving, investigations and other behind-the-scenes work on the actual pieces of art before or after they are seen by the public. The day of the tour Cotton was packing up a Monet painting in the shop. He let the students look at it and several new acquisitions. Students also watched Cotton's colleague making a frame for a 17th century Dutch painting.

As the Perpich crowd got onto the freight elevator they unexpectedly ran into Wyatt Lasky ('10, visual). Instructor Craig Farmer reported that they "kidnapped him and had him answer all of the questions that we had prepared for Robin in the storage room." Lasky works in the digital imaging department, sorting through images of past MIA exhibitions for the museum's 100th anniversary celebration. He graduated in May with a BFA in painting from Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

Farmer says that "in the main storage room, we were surrounded by a Benjamin West painting, furniture for the 1960s and a Hindu sculpture. Robin and his assistant had just taken a Brancusi sculpture to a hospital to be scanned. I was proud of our students. They asked really great questions!"

### Calendar

#### Dates

Nov 19–22	Theater Performance
Nov 24	Literary Arts Reading
Nov 26	No Classes
Nov 27–28	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec 2	Admissions Information Session
Dec 10–12	Dance Performance
Dec 18–19	Music Concert
Dec 22–Jan 2	Winter Break

Perpich Arts High School	6125 Olson Memorial Highway	Sue Mackert
Perpich Arts Outreach	Golden Valley, Minnesota 55422	Executive Director
Perpich Arts Library	<a href="http://perpich.mn.gov">perpich.mn.gov</a>	763-279-4160

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